



# Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

4041 N. Central, Suite 1400  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012  
Phone: (602) 506-6900  
Fax: (602) 506-6885  
[www.maricopa.gov/public\\_health](http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health)

October 8, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you so much for enduring the enrollment and ordering process for the novel H1N1 flu vaccine and for taking the time to answer our survey on top of it all. I want to give you a current vaccine update but first, I have a very important request.

Very many of you, nearly half, have still not either gotten a PIN and/or completed your provider agreement. Thus, we could not arrange to have vaccine shipped directly to you. But fear not. For the first couple of weeks, we've arranged to accept it on your behalf and will deliver it ourselves to those first in line to receive some of the very limited supply. However, we won't be able to keep that up so it is imperative that you complete the provider agreement ASAP.

Go to: <http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/vaccine.htm> and follow the steps, starting with step 2 if you don't already have a PIN, and step 3 to be sure that you have filled out the provider agreement.

Now for the update. At this point, Maricopa County (and the state of Arizona) has been able to order far less vaccine than I'd expected. To give you an idea how this works, the federal government announces each state's allotment and then our state breaks that allotment number down by percentage of each county's population.

On Tuesday, we began receiving our first week's delivery of 37K doses; all of it live attenuated (LAIV) nasal mist, all going to hospitals for hospital-based health care workers (HCWs) and to emergency medical workers. Early projections had caused me to hope that, after this relatively small delivery, we might be able to submit an order this week, for arrival next week, of a large bolus of varied forms of the vaccine.

Instead, on Tuesday, after first hearing we might be able to order upwards of 75K doses, I learned it was much worse. Our actual allocation was a mere 12,300 doses, all of it in Multi Dose Vials (MDV). No Pre-filled Syringes, no LAIV (the entire State of Arizona was awarded 1 box – 100 doses of LAIV). And our order was due (detailing by provider which of you would receive exactly how many doses) within a few hours. Then early Wednesday, we received an additional allocation of only 8,400 more doses, again all of it MDV. Between both orders, that's enough for 1/2 of 1% of the population of Maricopa County.

So here's what we did. We focused on pediatricians and Ob/Gyn's. Our two large community health centers got a few hundred doses between them for their pediatric and OB practices. Other large groups got a little extra for the same populations. All other Ob/Gyn practices got 100 doses each. We looked at the largest pediatric group practices and their answers to our survey (so good for you who answered the survey). The largest pediatric practices who also said they'd recall their highest risk patients and/or would hold special vaccination events got slightly more vaccine. The

October 7, 2009

2

*largest* remaining practices got 100 doses each. We'll divide up what's left and deliver the smaller pediatric practices 30-40 doses each. That's all we have.

All of the above vaccine should arrive sometime next week.

Most of you got nothing. Nothing for Family Practice. Nothing for any other providers. Nothing for school clinics. Nothing for WIC sites. Nothing for alternate sites to which you can send patients. Nothing for County immunization clinics and nothing further for the many HCWs we haven't yet covered. And no one got all that they asked for.

Disappointed and frustrated are understatement as to how we are feeling this week in Public Health, but we must endure. It is too early in the second wave to become overly frustrated (I am sure there will be plenty of time for that).

So what's next? Given our experience of the last two days, I expect this to become a daily exercise. We'll be offered a small additional amount nearly each day, and we'll keep ordering more for you until the supply begins to increase in the coming days and weeks. Those of you who can expect to receive vaccine sometime next week will receive an email from me as soon as we can verify it.

In our next order, we simply *must* begin to supply some of those categories I listed above for which nothing is yet ordered. We also must resupply some of you who are using it efficiently and well (so expect us to keep asking you how it's going).

Eventually, this should become a more steady supply. But it will be a difficult few weeks, even as it is already clear that the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the pandemic has begun.

Sorry this is not better news. I know you will have a lot of patients banging down your doors for vaccine and we will do our best to send out appropriate public messaging and also to keep you updated on the situation. All I ask right now is your patience as we work to get through the next few weeks. I recognize that we all have a vital role to play in this response, and trust me, I am doing all I can to make sure you have the tools you need to take care of your patients.

Hang in there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob England, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark at the end.

Bob England, MD, MPH  
Director  
Maricopa County Department of Public Health